

Boulder Valley Farm
4536 N. 95th Street
Lafayette, CO 80026

Boulder Valley Farm Management Plan for Unirrigated Agricultural Lands, Including City of Boulder Conservation Easement Property

1. Reduce Prairie Dog population to a level that would allow native/adapted grasses to be re-established.
2. Control invasive weeds initially with a combination of herbicides and mowing.
3. Identify eroded areas and reseed.
4. Continue with 1 thru 3 until grasslands are established.

Issues with existing City Management Requirements

1. Present management requirements and lease terms have changed since the initial sale to City of Boulder in 1994.
2. Due to restrictions on managing prairie dog population the prairie dog population has exceeded the ability of the land to naturally provide viable habitat.
3. The overpopulation of the property with prairie dogs has resulted in existing native grasses such as Buffalo grass and yuccas to be eliminated from the property. This vegetation is native to the site and very difficult to re-establish.
4. The native/adapted grasses and vegetation have been replaced with invasive weeds such as bind weed. Invasive weeds provide a poor habitat for the prairie dog population and provide little, if any, erosion control.
5. The inability to manage invasive weeds and the resulting wind erosion causes an increased distribution and amount of invasive weeds on adjacent properties, resulting in significantly increased cost to manage invasive weeds and prairie dogs on property adjacent to the City easement.
6. Current short-term leases do not allow sufficient time to implement management practices that will allow grasslands to re-establish thus reducing erosion.

Boulder Valley Farm's Proposed Use of City Easement Property

1. Use of an approximate 100-acre parcel north of the Leggett Ditch. Used between January 1st thru March 31st to calve approximately 60 cows. The cows are moved to the parcel in groups of 15 to 20 for calving. No grazing occurs at this time. All animals are fed during their time on the easement parcel.

Detailed Grassland Management

1. Year One
 - Reduce prairie dog population by 70% or 75% to approximately 25% to 30% of existing population.
 - Early summer application of herbicide. (City's approved herbicide is acceptable, but is significantly more expensive than the herbicides used on BVF not under easement.) Additional application may be required due to the amount of weed seed present on the property, soil moisture level, and growth of invasive weeds. Early summer seeding with annual grass to

attempt to get some vegetation to slow wind erosion and trap natural moisture.

- Mow invasive weeds to control seed production. Avoid any areas of existing native/adapted grasses on the property (if any exist).
- Depending on moisture conditions, reseed with perennial grasses after establishment of the annual grasses.

2. Years Two through Five

- Maintain the prairie dog population at approximately 25% to 30% of present population.
- Spot apply herbicides to areas of significant invasive weed infestation.
- Mow invasive weeds prior to seed production.

3. Future/Ongoing Management

- Maintain the prairie dog population at approximately 25% to 30% of present population.
- Spot apply herbicides to areas of significant invasive weed infestation.
- Mow invasive weeds prior to seed production.